

Message Text

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UNCLAS STATE 159509 TOSEC 200150

REPEATED AS TAB 2 OF ACTION MEMO 7616589, TOSEC

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 159509 ACTION LUSAKA SECRETARY AIRCRAFT
INFO ALL DIPLOMATIC POSTS EXEMPT LUSAKA 26 JUN 76

QUOTE UNCLAS STATE 159509

LUSAKA FOR SCRANTON FROM LEWIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, RQ

SUBJECT: PUERTO RICO: TEXT OF PRESIDENT'S ARRIVAL
STATEMENT

FOLLOWING IS PORTION OF PRESIDENT'S ARRIVAL STATEMENT
AS RELEASED BY WHITE HOUSE 6/26 DEALING WITH US/PUERTO
RICAN RELATIONSHIP:

BEGIN QUOTE:

THIS IS MY FIRST VISIT AS PRESIDENT TO THE COMMONWEALTH
OF PUERTO RICO. IT IS A FITTING MOMENT TO REFLECT ON
THE RICH AND LONG HISTORY OF COOPERATION AND PARTICIPATION
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WHICH THIS ISLAND AND ITS PEOPLE SHARE WITH THE UNITED
STATES. THAT HISTORY HAS BEEN BUILT ON A SIMPLE BUT
FUNDAMENTAL PRECEPT--THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO
RICO AND THE UNITED STATES FREELY TO DETERMINE THE NATURE

OF THEIR TIES WITH ONE ANOTHER. OVER THE YEARS WE HAVE CHOSEN TO HAVE A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP AND WE HAVE BUILT THIS RELATIONSHIP AROUND A COMMON CITIZENSHIP, A COMMON DEFENSE, A COMMON CURRENCY AND A COMMON MARKET.

TODAY, WE FIND THAT THE NATURE OF OUR RELATIONSHIP IS AGAIN, AS IN THE PAST, A SUBJECT OF FREE DISCUSSION AND DEBATE. THIS IN ITSELF IS THE BEST TESTAMENT TO THE STRENGTH OF WHAT WE HAVE BUILT TOGETHER AND IT IS THE BEST PROMISE THAT WHAT WE TOGETHER CHOOSE TO DO IN THE FUTURE WILL BE BENEFICIAL TO THE PEOPLE OF THIS ISLAND.

THERE ARE THOSE, HOWEVER, WHO SEEK TO DISTORT THE FACTS; TO MISLEAD OTHERS ABOUT OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH PUERTO RICO. THE RECORD IS CLEAR AND OPEN. WE ARE PROUD OF THE RELATIONSHIP THAT WE HAVE DEVELOPED TOGETHER AND WE INVITE THE WORLD TO EXAMINE IT. WE COMMEND TO ITS CRITICS THE SAME FREEDOM OF CHOICE THROUGH FREE AND OPEN ELECTION WHICH IS ENJOYED BY THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO. THOSE WHO MIGHT BE INCLINED TO INTERFERE IN OUR FREELY DETERMINED RELATIONS SHOULD KNOW THAT SUCH AN ACT WILL BE CONSIDERED AS INTERVENTION IN THE DOMESTIC AFFAIRS OF PUERTO RICO AND THE UNITED STATES; IT WILL BE AN UNFRIENDLY ACT WHICH WILL BE RESISTED BY APPROPRIATE MEANS. END QUOTE KISSINGER
UNQUOTE HABIB

UNCLASSIFIED

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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